

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

714/744 P STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814



February 16, 1984

CMSP Letter 84-1

TO: County Welfare Directors  
CMSP Contact Persons

Reference: County Welfare Director's CMSP Letter No. 83-9

The County Medical Services Program (CMSP) Letter No. 83-9 informed counties of changes in the CMSP eligibility determination process pertaining to maintenance need levels, eligibility time period, family budget unit determination, and mandatory deductions. As you know, these changes were approved by the Small County Advisory Committee (SCAC) and the Department of Health Services effective January 1, 1984. However, on January 20, 1984, the SCAC recommended, with the Department's concurrence, the elimination of the county option to establish a three month eligibility time period.

This change is the result of a further consideration of the inequitable impact that a variable time period option would have on the distribution of eligibility determination allocations, and on the recent statistical reporting requirements. Therefore, the Small County Advisory Committee and the Department has determined that a standardized system for determining the length of the period of eligibility shall be used by each CMSP county.

This notice advises you of the amendment to Section 0703(a) of the CMSP Manual as described in CMSP Letter 83-9. The specific change is as follows:

Rescission of the Eligibility Time Period Option

The option of utilizing a three-month period of eligibility has been rescinded effective retroactive to January 1, 1984. All CMSP counties are required to adopt a twelve-month period of eligibility in accordance with the instructions in CMSP 83-9, page 1, paragraph 5. (Refer to the procedure outlined in the following paragraph for explicit information regarding implementation of the time period.) Please note that paragraph 6 on pages 1 & 2 is voided by this rescission. The remainder of the section applies as written.

Implementation of the Eligibility Time Period

Counties shall complete an annual eligibility redetermination on all active CMSP cases that were approved on or after January 1, 1983, and shall assign to each of these cases a twelve month period of eligibility if the beneficiary meets all other applicable CMSP eligibility requirements. The date of the last application (MC210) shall determine the date the annual redetermination is due. For example, beneficiaries approved for CMSP during the month of November, 1983 shall have their eligibility redetermined no later than November, 1984.

The following options may be utilized to convert existing cases to an annual redetermination process:

1. Extend the current period of eligibility to a twelve month period from the date of application (the date of the MC 210 must be less than a year old), or,
2. Redetermine eligibility at the end of the current three month period.

If you are a county that sends out a notice of action that stipulates both an approval of benefits and a date of termination for such benefits (rather than the usual CMSP 239 B-M approval notice), your county is required to notify beneficiaries in writing of the above extension.

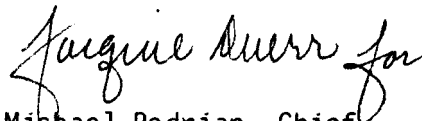
By April 30, 1984, each county shall have completed an annual eligibility redetermination on all active CMSP cases with MC 210's dated more than one year earlier, and shall assign to each of these cases a twelve-month period of eligibility if CMSP eligibility requirements are met. MC 210's over one year old are invalid and must be given top priority for review and redetermination! Counties may choose to stagger the redetermination intakes during this three-month period in order to facilitate the conversion on a timely basis.

This notice is also to advise you that the Ibarra v. Dawson lawsuit ruling should be applied to all CMSP mixed cases that have non-exempt earned income. Mixed cases include CMSP parent/Medi-Cal child and/or CMSP spouse/ABD-MN spouse. CMSP couples without children and CMSP single persons are not included under this ruling and, therefore, will not receive the mandatory deductions.

If you have questions regarding these changes, please contact Thelma Reamer Ellison at (916) 324-4202.

Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Sincerely,



Michael Rodrian, Chief  
Information and Technical Support  
Office of County Health Services

cc: CMSP Eligibility Liaisons  
Health Officers  
MISP Contact Persons

OCHS-934